- BOLLYWOOD

- HOLLYWOOD

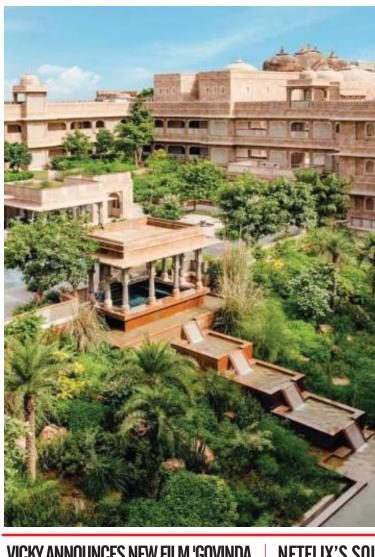
SPORTS

- CRICKET

### ALIA SHRUGS OFF QUESTIONS MidWeek 98 Gurpurab **ABOUT HER MARRIAGE WITH** RANBIR |19 ENTERTAINMENT

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# KATRINA, VICKY TO TIE THE KNOT AT SIX **SENSES FORT IN RAJASTHAN: REPORTS**







JAIPUR, (IANS) Bollywood stars

hotels in Sawai Madhopur.

On the other hand, the team of Katrina and Vicky Kaushal has also started preparing for the wedding.

A 10-member team reached Six Senses Barwara Fort on Tuesday to take stock of the situation. According to the information received from the hotel management, the team monitored all arrangements related to the wedding. They did a recce from which place the groom will come sitting on the horse, where will the mehendi be organised and so on. However, the wedding programs have not been announced yet.



### VICKY ANNOUNCES NEW FILM 'GOVINDA NAAM MERA' WITH KIARA, BHUMI



ACTOR VICKY KAUSHAL ON FRIDAY ANNOUNCED THE TITLE OF HIS UPCOMING FILM 'GOVINDA NAAM MERA', WHICH ALSO STARS KIARA ADVANI AND BHUMI PEDNEKAR.

### **NETFLIX'S SQUID GAME HAS BEEN WATCHED FOR 1.6 BN** HOURS, RED NOTICE CLOCKS **148.7 MN HOURS**



THE FIRST SEASON OF SQUID GAME **RANKS AS NETFLIX'S MOST-**WATCHED SHOW OR FILM EVER, WITH 1.6 BILLION HOURS VIEWED.

### AFTER DOSTANA 2, KARTIK AARYAN SAYS HE ISN'T AFFECTED BY NEGATIVE STORIES, BUT ASKS HIMSELF 'WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?"



KARTIK AARYAN ADDRESSED THE NEGATIVE PRESS THAT OFTEN SURROUNDS HIM. THE **ACTOR WAS REPLACED IN DOSTANA 2 AFTER** HAVING ALREADY SHOT SOME SCENES FOR IT, CITING 'CREATIVE DIFFERENCES'.

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I DETAILS ON PAGE 26

#### SHILPA SHETTY CLEARS THE AIR ON FIR FILED AGAINST RAJ KUNDRA AND HER



MUMBAI, (IANS) Troubles refuse to cease for Raj Kundra and Shilpa Shetty. The husband-wife duo have been named in an FIR with regards to financial discrepancy in a fitness venture started by them. The complainant alleged that the couple took money from investors across India for their pan-India enterprise and when he demanded the reversal of a payment of Rs 1.5 crore, he was threatened by them. Taking notice of this, Shilpa has issued a clarification with regards to the FIR and made a public appeal for safeguarding her civil rights well within the framework of law. The actress shared a note on her social media where she presented her side of the story. She wrote, "Woke up to an FIR registered in Raj and my name! Shocked!! To set the record straight, SFL Fitness, a venture run by Kashiff Khan (sic)."

### **RANI MUKERJI COMPLETES 25 YEARS** IN B'WOOD, SAYS VIMMY HER **FAVOURITE CHARACTER**



MUMBAI, (IANS) It's been 25 years for Rani Mukerji in the movies. Along the course of her journey, the actress has played many a character, but, for her, Vimmy from the 'Bunty Aur Babli' franchise is one who's closest to her heart.

In a conversation with IANS, Rani said, "It's special that I have completed 25 years in cinema with the character that is probably closest to my heart. I feel I was born to play Vimmy. I remember I was blown away by her when 'Bunty Aur Babli' was first narrated to me. Her energy, even from the pages of the script, was very infectious and I'm fortunate that I have her in my filmography."

The actress is reprising Vimmy's character in 'Bunty Aur Babli 2' "10 years from the time we left her in the first".

Turning the pages of time, Rani said: "Looking back at my journey in films, I feel blessed that I did the films that I worked in, and in a way, they're all special. I'm fortunate that I got a chance to collaborate creatively with some of the finest actors and technicians that the industry has ever seen. I'm proud that I've witnessed them and their work at such close proximity, learnt from them, and tried to be better with each passing film of mine, which I till date do."

#### **SOURAV GANGULY REPLACES ANIL KUMBLE** AS ICC CRICKET'S COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the Chairman of the ICC men's Cricket Committee, the game's governing body said on Wednesday. Ganguly will replace fellow Indian Anil Kumble, who stepped down after serving a maximum of three, three-year terms. "I am delighted to welcome Sourav to the position of Chair of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee," ICC Chair Greg Barclay said in a release. "His experience as one of the world's best players and latterly as an administrator will help us shape our cricketing decisions moving forward. "I would also like to thank Anil for his outstanding leadership over the last nine years which has included improving the international game through more regular and consistent application of DRS and a robust process for addressing suspect bowling actions." The Board also approved that firstclass status and list A classification will be applied to women's cricket to align with the men's game and applied retrospectively.

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### SALMAN TO KARTIK: IF I WASN'T AN ACTOR YOU'D BE **WORKING WITH SALMAN KHAN, THE DIRECTOR**



MUMBAI, (IANS) As the release of the action thriller 'Dhamaka' draws closer, the film's lead Kartik Aaryan is currently on a promotional

Recently, the actor registered his presence on the sets of 'Bigg Boss 15', where he met the show host and megastar Salman Khan as the two spoke about films and work.

The fresh episodic promo shared by the channel shows the two actors having a gala time on the sets, they also had a conversation around Kartik's portrayal of a journalist in the film.

During a rapid fire, Salman asked Kartik, "Agar mein actor nahihotatohkyahota, koi option nahi?"

hum kyakarte?" What Salman said next left many dazed and amazed at his wit, the actor went on to give a comeback, as he said, "Tohphiraap Salman Khan the director kesaathkaamkarte aur Salman Khan aapka competition nahihota". To this, Kartik cheekily replies, "Sir sign karlijiye!" The promo suggests that the upcoming episode will be full of fun and entertainment.

The makers of 'Dhamaka' recently released the song 'Khoya Paaya' which showcases Kartik's character in self-contemplation. The song perfectly ties together the theme of the film with its riveting lyrical flow swirling to Vishal Khurana's composition.

'Dhamaka' directed by Ram Madhvani also stars Mrunal Thakur and To this, Kartik replied in jest, saying, "Sir agar aap actor nahihote, toh Amruta Subhash and is set to stream on Netflix from November 19.

### MARVEL ROLLS OUT FIRST LOOKS, STAR LEADS OF 'MOON KNIGHT', 'SHE-HULK', 'MS. MARVEL'

LOS ANGELES, (IANS) Setting the stage for its slate of Disney Plus series for 2022, Marvel Studios released first looks for three of its upcoming shows onto the streamer: 'Moon Knight' starring Oscar Isaac and Ethan Hawke; 'She-Hulk' starring Tatiana Maslany and Mark Ruffalo; and 'Ms. Marvel' starring newcomer Iman Vellani.

The studio also released an extended action sequence from its next Disney Plus series, 'Hawkeye', which is set to debut on the streamer on November 24.

The first looks were included in a special preview of Marvel Studios' upcoming Disney Plus shows, as part of the company's Disney Plus Day celebrations meant to commemorate the second anniversary of the streamer's launch in 2019, reports variety.com.

In 'Moon Knight', Isaac plays Marc Spector, who in the comics has dissociative identity disorder and believes himself to be the human avatar of the Egyptian god Khonshu. In the teaser, he says he hears voices in his we see her infused with some kind of energy that, comics fans know, will head and walks past a golden statue of Khonshu.

Knight comics, as he brutally punches a victim on the ground in a dark hallway, illuminated by flickering lights. In a very Batman-esque shot, he jumps across buildings, silhouetted by the glowing crescent moon.

The cast includes Hawke, who told Seth Meyers he's playing a character inspired by cult leader David Koresh, and May Calamawy. Mohamed Diab, Justin Benson and Aaron Moorhead are directing the series, and Jeremy Slater is the head writer.

'She-Hulk'

In 'She-Hulk', Maslany plays Jennifer Walters, a lawyer who (at least in the comics) inherits similar Hulk powers after she receives a blood transfusion from her green-skinned cousin Bruce Banner. Luckily for Walters, when she Hulks out, she maintains control of her personality and intelligence. In the teaser, Marvel fans can see a glimpse of her green skin and white-and-purple costume, accurate to the comic-book look.

The cast includes Jameela Jamil, who reportedly plays the super-strong villain Titania, 'Hamilton' star Renee Elise Goldsberry, Ginger Gonzaga,



Josh Segarra and Tim Roth, who will reprise his role as the Abomination, most recently seen in a cameo in 'Shang-Chi'. 'Ms. Marvel'

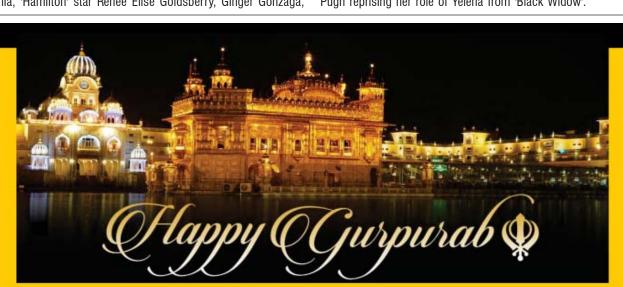
In 'Ms. Marvel', Vellani plays Kamala Khan, a Muslim, Pakistani-American who idolises Captain Marvel. In the preview, Kamala laments that "it's not really the brown girls from Jersey City who save the world", as give her the powers to, indeed, save the world.

Isaac dons a white, caped costume, ripped from the pages of Moon The clip underscores that Kamala is the first Muslim superhero by cutting from a shot of people in a mosque in prayer to a shot of Kamala standing at a mirror wearing her Captain Marvel cosplay.

The cast includes Zenobia Shroff and Mohan Kapur as Kamala's parents Muneeba and Yusuf, as well as Aramis Knight, Rish Shah, Saagar Shaikh, and Matt Lintz. The series is directed by Adil El Arbi and BilallFallah, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, and Meera Menon, and Bisha K. Ali is the head writer. 'Hawkeye'

The final Disney Plus series of 2021, 'Hawkeye', stars Jeremy Renner as Avenger Clint Barton, a.k.a. Hawkeye, and Hailee Steinfeld as Kate Bishop, Clint's biggest fan. In an extended clip from the show, we see Clint and Kate on the run in an old Chrysler from a pack of track-suited goons, as Kate tries to ward them off with her (considerable) archery skills using some of Clint's trick arrows.

'Hawkeye' also stars Vera Farmiga as Kate's mother Eleanor, as well as Tony Dalton, Fra Fee, Zahn McClarnon, Brian d'Arcy James and Florence Pugh reprising her role of Yelena from 'Black Widow'.





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#### 'KBC 13' TO SEE STUDENTS ON THE HOTSEAT AND BIG B'S HIP LOOK

MUMBAI, (IANS) 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 13', hosted by megastar Amitabh Bachchan is going to have a Students Special Week. Kids from the age group of 8 to 15 years will be on the hotseat and answer questions of the host.

For this particular Student Special Week, there are certain changes made in the look of Amitabh Bachchan. As he will be seen sporting street-style hoodies, jackets and more.

Beside this, the amount won will be termed as points for the Students Special Week as kids are participating. And the winning amout that is called points for this special week can be utilised by the kids after they turn 18 years old.

The Students Special Week of 'KBC 13' will start from November 15 on Sony Entertainment Television.

#### SAIF UNDERWENT TWO MONTHS OF DICTION TRAINING FOR 'BUNTY AUR BABLI 2'

MUMBAI, (IANS) Actor Saif Ali Khan has shared that he did diction training for two months to nail his character on screen for 'Bunty Aur Babli 2'. Saif said: "I have always been fascinated by the heartland of India. The characters that come out of these places are endearing, interesting, multi-layered, and most importantly quite real. I have been fortunate to have found success in projects that have been set in this belt like 'Omkara', 'Aarakshan' and even 'Tandav' and I hope people love my effort in 'Bunty Aur Babli 2' in which I play a retired con-man who is trying to be happy being a ticket collector in the sleepy town of Fursatgunj." He added: "I'm always up for a challenge and the fact that people are loving how I have moulded into Bunty in the film is a huge compliment for me. I took it upon myself to ensure that I land the diction perfectly in the film. I always want to get into the skin of my character so diction training is something that I went through again for 'Bunty Aur Babli 2'." Saif said that he did this intermittently for about two months before the shoot started. He said" "I want to surprise people with every project that I pick and I'm happy that people are excited to watch the film and see how I have played Bunty in this rebooted family entertainer."

### ALIA SHRUGS OFF QUESTIONS ABOUT HER MARRIAGE WITH RANBIR



MUMBAI, (IANS) Alia Bhatt has been dodging guestions regarding her plans to get married to Ranbir Kapoor, after posting an adorable picture of the two together on Diwali and getting fans all excited. The actress uploaded a video on her YouTube channel documenting a regular day in her life. It starts with the actress driving to a studio for an advertisement shoot with her best friend, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, and throughout the course of the video, Alia answers questions from fans. One of them inquired about screensaver, to which the actress  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ replied by turning her phone screen towards the camera to show a glimpse of her picture with Ranbir. But that was all. While she answered questions regarding her inspirations, the experience of the shoot and how she deals with trolls, she literally shrugged away the one question that was being asked over and over again. When would she tie the knot? Alia took the names of some of the fans who had asked the question and without giving an answer, she simply shrugged, leaving it to those who'd asked the question what she meant by her gesture.

### PATAUDI INSPIRED SAIF TO BECOME



MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan revealed how his late father, the legendary cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, inspired him to read books, on 'The Kapil Sharma Show'. Saif will be seen as a celebrity guest on the show.

While interacting with the host Kapil Sharma, Saif shared with him that his father had played an important role in inculcating a number of good habits in him and one of them is reading books. During the show, Saif recalled the day his father told him about the relevance of books in life. He said: "One day my father was alone at home and everyone was out shooting, my mother, me, and everyone. As no one was there at home I called him up and asked him if he is okay, are you feeling lonely? So, he said I am not lonely; I have my books with me. So, I liked that sentiment a lot and you know even I feel the same way. I like books a lot." While Saturday's episode will see Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji and SharvariWagh promoting their movie 'Bunty Aur Babli 2', the Sunday special has Saif Ali Khan, Rani Mukerji, Siddhant Chaturvedi and SharvariWagh on the show. 'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

### **ARIJIT SINGH: LOVE SONGS HAVE NO SEASON**



MUMBAL (IANS) Singer and composer Ariiit Singh says his latest track 'Tera Hua' from the upcoming film 'Cash' is a romantic number with beautiful composition and that love songs have no season. "Love songs have no season and 'Tera Hua' is a beautiful track," says Arijit. The track, featuring Amol Parashar and Smriti Kalra, released Friday. Music composer Akull added that his composition brings out the emotions of love and care.

He says: "'Tera Hua' is decorated with words that seek to bring out the one of the four tracks from the movie.

sensitive and empathetic perspective of a lover. I am sure that audiences will enjoy this song as much I did while composing." 'Cash' is directed by Rishab Seth and produced by Vishesh Bhatt. It is based on the issue of demonetization and how it has affected the people. It stars Amol Parashar and Smriti Kalra in the lead roles. The trailer of this movie is already out and it will be released on November 19 on Disney+ Hotstar. Produced by Sony Music, 'Tera Hua' is

#### YASH RAJ FILMS TO ENTER OTT SPACE WITH RS 500 CR WAR CHEST

MUMBAI, (IANS) Production house Yash Raj Films has decided to start a new business venture that will mark its foray into the booming Indian OTT market.

Filmmaker Aditya Chopra has grand plans to reshape the digital content market as it stands today and is earmarking Rs 500 crore for YRF's OTT arm that will be called YRF Entertainment.

A source informed: "Aditya Chopra wants to contribute towards raising the bar of digital content production in India. He wants to match global standards of vision and storytelling with stories that are rooted in India. These scripts are being homegrown in YRF as we speak. This could be the moment that reshapes the OTT space forever. YRF has huge plans and they will roll out their strategy soon. Wait for some of the biggest announcements ever seen in the digital content space."

The informer added that Aditya Chopra is of the opinion that OTT has the power to showcase truly Indian stories to the world.

"Being the first and only true blue Indian studio, YRF wants to tell the best stories to global audiences in the most visually grand way possible. Platforms like this are now bridging the language barrier and exposing cultures and talents to the world. Aditya Chopra wants to shift a gear and really scale up the OTT space in India to match

international standards."

Several projects have been lined up already and YRF and has been working on this plan for over two years.

The source said: "When YRF decides to start something new, it does so at a scale that is unmatched. He has earmarked Rs 500 crore to start his new venture. Aditya Chopra's plans are in fruition now and this is probably the most exciting thing that has happened in the Indian OTT space.

"YRF has always backed raw, new talent and really original and exciting scripts. Imagine what this move does to talent and content that exists in India today.

"A massive studio like this looking to nurture the OTT landscape in India is a true milestone moment. YRF will definitely roll out the most innovative content and we can't wait to see what those are in due course of time."

'SQUID GAME' TOP CONTENDER FOR **US YEAR-END AWARDS** 



SEOUL, (IANS) The South Korean breakout hit 'Squid Game' has emerged as a big contender in the US year-end awards season, possibly to become the first Korean-made TV series winning a trophy at prestigious awards ceremonies.

The highly competitive race for great TV shows and movies of the year is the biggest celebration for the US entertainment industry eying for the Emmys and Oscars next year, says Yonhap news agency.

In the past two years, the American awards season unprecedentedly caught the eyes of Korean people, after Bong Joon-ho's 'Parasite' swept the awards-positioning autumn film festivals and the eventual Academy Awards, and YounYuhjung of 'Minari' brought home the first acting Oscar. Written and directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk, the nine-part Netflix series about contestants engaged in deadly Korean children's playground games to win the equivalent of \$38.5 million in prize money, has become a global phenomenon, viewed by 142 million households over the first four weeks of its release on September 17. Last month, the organisers of the 2021 Gotham Awards nominated 'Squid Game' for two categories -- Breakthrough Series: Long Format (over 40 minutes) and Outstanding Performance in a New Series for its lead, Lee Jung-jae. The awards for lower-budget films and TV series are considered the beginning of the harvest season, and its winners are seen as key precursors for subsequent awards shows. Since Gotham Awards nominations, U.S. media outlets have increased the odds of 'Squid Game' winning a good number of recognitions in big-name accolades, including the Critics Choice Awards and also the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards. According to Gold Derby, an American awards prediction website, 'Squid Game' has been included in its top five candidates for the SAG Awards TV drama ensemble prize, along with HBO's black comedy 'Succession', the Apple TV+ drama 'The Morning Show', Hulu's 'The Handmaid's Tale' and FX's 'Pose'. "If 'Squid Game' makes the final five, a win is definitely not out of the question," said Gold Derby, adding the SAG has given its top prizes in TV and film to popular hits of the year, such as 'Grey's Anatomy'.





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### **VICKY ANNOUNCES NEW FILM 'GOVINDA' NAAM MERA' WITH KIARA, BHUMI**



MUMBAI, (IANS) Amid wedding rumours, actor Vicky Kaushal on Friday announced the title of his upcoming film 'Govinda Naam Mera', which also stars Kiara Advani and Bhumi Pednekar.

The film is directed by Shashank Khaitan and produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Shashank Khaitan in collaboration with Viacom18 Studios. The film is slated to hit the big screen on June 10, 2022. Vicky took to Instagram to make the announcement. He shared three looks on the photo-sharing website.

The first look is of Vicky, who plays Govinda Waghmare and captioned it: "Tevarhaijhakaas, dance hai first class, par life? Life haiekdum chaos! Meet me - #GovindaNaamMera only in cinemas on 10th June 2022. Arreyrukiye, meet my partners in crime! Stay tuned!"

He then introduced Bhumi's character as "Govinda ki hotty wife". "Inkeliyekya hi bole! Kam hi bole tohacchahaia. Meet my better half, my wife! #GovindaNaamMera in cinemas on 10th June 2022," he wrote.

Finally, he shared the poster of Kiara, who will be seen playing his character's girlfriend.

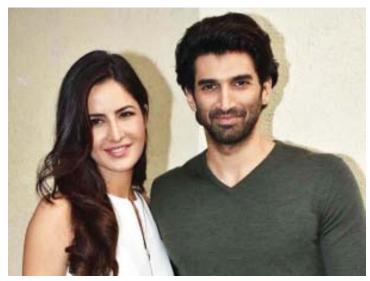
Dressed in a yellow saree, Kiara is introduced as "Govinda ki naughty girlfriend".

"Inkodekhkar agar pyaarnahihoga, tohphirkyahoga? Meet Govinda's girlfriend. Shh, baakijaan ne keliyemilenge cinemas mein! #GovindaNaamMera in cinemas 10th June, 2022," he captioned it. Other details related to the plot are still under wraps.

### WHEN VJ ADITYA ROY KAPUR INTERVIEWED KATRINA KAIF AND ASKED ABOUT HER 'PRETTY YOUNGER SISTERS'

Before Aditya Roy Kapur established himself as an actor with Aashiqui 2, he was a VJ. He had interviewed Katrina Kaif, who later became his co-star in Fitoor. In an old video that has emerged online, Aditya quizzes Katrina on her life, seven siblings, and tries to get her to dance to the song "Just Chill" from Salman Khan-starrer Maine Pyar Kyun Kiya. In the video, Aditya asks Katrina, "You have a big family, seven sisters?" While Katrina counts, he quips, "Any pretty young ones my age?" To which Katrina responds, "Are you insinuating that I am old? What is your age?" Aditya answers, "20." Katrina goes on to explain that one of her sisters had come to Bombay, and was learning dancing. She also mentioned that owing to their different schedules, all the seven sisters try to meet up every couple of months.

Following this conversation, Aditya Roy Kapur quizzed Katrina Kaif about her Kathak dancing skills. "You learnt it in forty days, seven hours a day, that's what I read," said Aditya. Katrina replied, "For one year, I was on and off working. One training consisted of around 40 days." When Aditya asked Katrina why she took it up, the actor said, him, "That's not Kathak, that's more Bharatnatyam." After this, Aditya "It was something I wanted to do. At that point, I was not sure what I played the song "Just Chill". He tried to get her to make the hand movewas going to do, regarding movies. It was what something someone ments like she did in the video, but a shy Katrina refused. suggested to me. I found it helpful." Aditya asked whether she had to On the work front, Katrina has Phone Bhoot and Tiger 3 in her kitty. Aditya, make smiling faces and move her head, and Katrina gently corrected meanwhile, has 0m - The Battle Within and Thadam remake in the pipeline.



### SOHA ALI KHAN, KUNAL KEMMU AND INAAYA NAUMI KEMMU GO ON AN 'INCREDIBLE' JUNGLE SAFARI

Actors Soha Ali Khan, Kunal Kemmu and their daughter Inaaya Naumi Kemmu are on a holiday. They recently visited the Tadoba National Park in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district. On Tuesday, Soha posted several pictures on Instagram and captioned them, "Don't ask did you see a tiger? Ask how many?"

In the first photo, Soha, Kunal and Inaaya are in a jeep, and are making their way into the forest. In the next photo, a paw impression of a tiger can be seen. In one of the photos, we get a glimpse of a tiger. Soha also shared a video from the safari ride and more pictures of tigers. She captioned it, "Tigers in Tadoba! Thank you @sudester @peekadocrayons @the bamboo forest for this incredible experience #chhotirani #rudra."

Tadoba National Park is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park. It is also known as the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.

On the work front, Soha Ali Khan will soon be making her digital debut with Hush Hush, which will also star Juhi Chawla, Ayesha Jhulka and Kritika Kamra. She will also be seen in a Netflix comedy series.



### TIGER SHROFF'S SISTER KRISHNA SHROFF OPENS UP ABOUT HER BRUTAL FIRST BREAK-UP: 'I LOST MYSELF'

been very vocal about how it changed her life. Recently, Krishna opened up about it and revealed that she turned to fitness after a rather brutal break-up, and how she decided to prioritise herself. Talking to ET Times, Krishna said that she decided to focus on fitness five-and-a-half years ago. She said, "When I first stepped into a gym, I was going through a really bad breakup. It was actually my first break-up. He was my first boyfriend, my first relationship. First experiences are always a big learning experience. I lost myself. I started prioritising him over me." She added, "I wasn't just finding time for myself. When that whole chapter ended in my life, I decided I wanted to do something for myself, and it had to be very transformational.

Tiger Shroff's sister Krishna is a fitness enthusiast and has always



Fitness has been that for me. It has not been just physical, but mental too. It has given me security and a sense of confidence that I never had while growing up." During the course of the interview, she also mentioned that she and Tiger bond over food, apart from fitness of course. She said that her entire family is into fitness as well, and their household works towards motivating each other. "We find that motivation from one another. We all have always been inclined towards an active lifestyle. Living in our house is enough motivation to keep pushing yourself. I am looking at my brother who is a freaking superhuman. My mother and father are ageing backwards. We all just try to keep up with one another. It is definitely a healthy environment to be a part of." Krishna was recently seen in the music video of the track "Kinni Kinni Vaari." In an earlier conversation with indianexpress.com, Krishna had shared that she has no plans of making her way as an actor. "Probably not. Definitely not. For me, anything I do has to spark an interest, strike a chord. And Bollywood doesn't do that. There is so much more to do. People need to start looking a little beyond (Bollywood)," she shared.

#### RANI RECALLS THE TIME WHEN SHE HAD A CRUSH ON SRK, AAMIR



MUMBAI, (IANS) Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji, who will appear as a special guest on 'The Kapil Sharma Show', opens up about the people in the industry she has had a crush on. During a conversation with the show's host, Rani revealed that she had a huge crush on Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan. She also talked about doing romantic scenes with them and how she used to feel. Rani recalls: "I was nervous doing romantic scenes with Aamir and Shah Rukh for 'Ghulam' and 'KuchKuchHota Hai'. I was then 16 or 17 years old and I had previously watched Aamir and Shah Rukh on the silver screen. "My heart started beating faster after I first saw Aamir in 'Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak'. And after watching Shahrukh in 'Dilwale Dulhaniya Le Jayenge', I felt like, you know, what we call 'young crush'." 'The Kapil Sharma Show' airs on Sony Entertainment Television.

### SHRUTI HAASAN DOESN'T WANT TO PRETEND THAT SHE IS SINGLE ANYMORE: 'IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO MY PARTNER TO HIDE IT'



with boyfriend Santanu Hazarika. On Mandira Bedi's show The Love Laugh Live Show, she said that the two developed a strong connection through art and other similar interests. When Mandira asked her about Santanu and when their love story began to blossom, Shruti revealed that Santanu had done a piece of art for one of their common friends but they had never really met each other properly. The actor said, "I think we crossed paths a couple of times and we completely just walked past each other." Shruti Haasan mentioned she and Santanu Hazarika started chatting online and had a lot of common interests like their love for art, Swedish metal band Meshuggah and graphic novels. "Everything basically that I love," she said. When Mandira asked if she wanted to hide the relationship with Shantanu, Shruti said, "I hid a lot in the past. I have been very particular. I have been like, 'Oh my God, I am totally single' for the longest time. Because people were like 'you have to appear that way, you have to appear desirable, available'. And one day I was like, 'For whom? For what?' I also felt like it was disrespectful to my partner- to hide it. It may or may not work out. We don't know but I think it's important to respect your environment and the people in it."

#### PUJA BANERJEE TIES THE KNOT WITH KUNAL VERMA: 'NEWLY MARRIED AGAIN'



After giving us glimpses from their pre-wedding festivities, Puja Banerjee and Kunal Verma have shared the first photo of their 'newly married again' moment. The actors, who were set to tie the knot last year, had opted for a registered marriage back then, owing to the pandemic. And on Monday, they tied the knot in an intimate wedding.

The couple shared a photo of themselves at their romantic best. In the photo, Kunal is seen kissing Puja's forehead, while the glowing bride holds him close. Addressing him as patidev, Puja captioned the photo, "Newly married again @kunalrverma patidev." Sharing the same photo, the doting husband wrote, "ban gayi meri rani." Their friends from the industry were quick to congratulate the newlyweds. Anupamaa actor Gaurav Khanna commented on the post, "Congratulations to the lively and a beautiful couple... amazing pic pooja." Others like Adaa Khan, Karanvir Bohra, Vikas Gupta, Arjun Bijlani, Ashlesha Sawant dropped heart emojis.

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

### BHANSALI POSTPONES 'GANGUBAI' RELEASE TO **AVERT CLASH WITH 'RRR'**





HYDERABAD, (IANS) S.S. Rajamouli, who is ready with his upcoming movie 'RRR', took to his social media to thank Bollywood director Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming movie 'GangubaiKathiawadi' has averted a clash with 'RRR', and has postponed the release date. Touched by this gesture, Rajamouli thanked the producer JayantilalGada and director Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

The Alia Bhatt-starrer 'GangubaiKathiawadi' was originally slated for January 6 release. The makers issued a statement on Monday, announcing the new release date of the film. It is reported that the re- 'RRR' is slated for its release on January 7.

lease of 'GangubaiKathiawadi' has been postponed to February 18, avoiding a box-office clash with 'RRR'. In much appreciation, SS. Rajamouli took to his Twitter Rajamouli wrote, "The decision by Mr. @JayantilalGada and Mr. #SanjayLeelaBhansali to move their release date is well appreciated. Our heartfelt wishes to #GangubaiKathiawadi." Alia Bhatt plays the lead actress in both 'RRR' and 'GangubaiKathiawadi'. Rajamouli's directorial 'RRR' is a pan-India movie, which is being made in multiple languages and stars Telugu's biggest duo NTR and Ram Charan.

## KANGANA DEFENDS HER 'INDIA'S FREEDOM IN 1947 WAS CHARITY' STATEMENT



MUMBAI, (IANS) Kangana Ranaut stirred up a hornet's nest recently when she said that the freedom that India attained in 1947 was given to the nation as a handout by the British.

Kangana was speaking at a media summit when she gave the controversial statement saying that "India got true freedom only in 2014". Several politicians have demanded an apology from her and also made an appeal to revoke her recently conferred Padma Shri award, saying that her statement insults the sacrifice of all those freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the nation.

Now, the actress has come out and defended herself through a series of pictures on her Instagram. Her first picture is a screenshot of a BBC article that spoke about 'Why Britain owes no reparations to India'. Captioning the post, the actress wrote, "Why and how can white colonists or their sympathisers get away with such nonsense in this day and age? If you try to figure it out, the answer is in my Times Now Summit statement."

She adds, "It is because our nation builders did not hold the British accountable for the countless crimes they committed in India, from plundering our country's wealth to ruthlessly killing our freedom fighters to dividing our country into two parts, at the time of independence. After World War II, the British left India at their leisure, with Winston Churchill being hailed as a war hero."

Further explaining her side, Kangana states, "He was the same person who was responsible for the Bengal famine; was he ever tried in independent India's courts for his crimes? No. Cyril Radcliffe, an Jai Hind," the actress concluded in her post.

English white man who had never been to India before, was brought to India by the British to draw the line of Partition in just 5 weeks."

She adds, "Both the INC and the Muslim League were members of the committee that decided the terms of the Partition line drawn by the British, which resulted in the deaths of nearly a million people. Did those who died tragically gain independence? Was the British or the INC, who agreed to the Partition line, held responsible for the massacre that occurred after?"

The other pictures in the series are of a letter written by the first Prime Minister of independent India Jawaharlal Nehru and an editorial which states that India really attained freedom in 2014. The actress further writes, "There is a letter from our first Prime Minister, Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru, dated 28th April 1948, to the British Monarch, requesting British approval for the appointment of the then-Governor of West Bengal as the Governor-General of India."

She goes on to state, "The letter can be found in the second image of my post. If such a letter exists, do you believe the INC attempted to hold the British accountable for their crimes? If so, please explain how my statement is incorrect!" "Did the freedom fighters who gave their lives for an independent India know that the British and our nation-builders would divide undivided India into two parts, resulting in the massacre of one million people? I'd like to conclude by saying that if we don't hold the British accountable for the numerous crimes committed in India, we are still disrespecting our freedom fighters.

### INSIDE ANKITA LOKHANDE'S BACHELORETTE PARTY WITH RASHAMI DESAI, MAHHI VIJ, SRISHTY RODE

Ankita Lokhande's bachelorette party took place in Mumbai on Tuesday night. The actor was joined by her girls — Rashami Desai, Mahhi Vij, Srishty Rode, Hetal Shah and Mishthi Tyagi — by her side as she celebrated. Mrunal Thakur and Amruta Khanvilkar were also seen in the photos. The inside photos from the happening all-girls night were shared on social media by the guests.

The shadi season for our celebs is on and Ankita Lokhande and her boyfriend Vicky Jain are also expected to tie the knot soon.

While there has been much speculation about Ankita Lokhande's upcoming wedding with Vicky Jain, the couple hasn't made an official announcement yet. As per sources,

Ankita and Vicky have planned a three-day-long wedding extravaganza starting December 12.

Ankita and Vicky have not shared the final wedding date and the details but as per sources, the couple has planned a three-day-long wedding extravaganza starting December 12. The bachelorette party of Ankita Lokhande seems to make this official.

Ankita Lokhande's party cake read 'bride-to-be'. The girls were dressed in all-black while Ankita was seen in a purple dress on her special day. Going by the photos and videos, the ladies did make the night special for the Pavitra Rishta star. A friend close to the couple had earlier shared with indianexpress.com that the dates are fixed, but Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain are yet to officially invite their friends. "As of now, only very close people have been informed about the wedding. Following a few rituals and puja ceremonies, the invitation cards will be sent out. Given both of them are from the city, the wedding celebration will happen in Mumbai itself," added the friend.

#### TIP TIPPAANIBARSA' IS CLASSIC GOVINDA, **BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF THE '90S**



MUMBAI, (IANS) Govinda who ruled hearts with his comic and dance skills back in the '90s, is now exploring other avenues as well. The actor recently released his new song titled 'Tip TipPaaniBarsa' on his YouTube channel known as 'GovindaRoyalles'. The actor has taken the digital leap in order to reach out to his fans. The song also features his voice in addition to his pleasant screen presence. Serving a perfect antidote to Monday morning blues, the song takes his fans down the memory lane with a healthy dose of the classic Govinda style. Commenting on the recently released song, an excited Govinda said "I have ensured that I entertain my fans who have showered me with their love and blessings each time. The global disruption took online viewership to unprecedented heights and I believe this is the best way. I reach out to my fans who can now watch me any time, anywhere, and on any device." The actor had mentioned the song on 'The Kapil Sharma Show' last month and promised the audiences that he'll soon launch the same. No points for guessing that fans were waiting anxiously to see their favourite hero and his new killer moves and expressions.

#### AAYUSH SHARMA 'DIDN'T WANT SALMAN KHAN' TO DO ANTIM



Aayush Sharma confessed that he was apprehensive about Salman Khan featuring in Antim: The Final Truth initially. Aayush, who is Salman's brother-in-law, was afraid that his inclusion would ignite another nepotism debate. Speaking with News18, Aayush said, "(At) the beginning of the process of making this film, I was anxious about the fact that he is in the film. There are going to be multiple notions about it including the fact that we are a family, he is making this film to help me in my career and also to spark another conversation on nepotism. Initially, I was against the idea of Salman bhai being a part of Antim. I didn't want him to do the film and I told him that. In fact, I went to all the people in the family to convince him not to do it. It was also because I was doing something completely different from LoveYatri and also the other thing was with his presence, whether I'd be able to do justice to the film and match up to his hysteria."

#### AKSHAY KUMAR ON 'PRITHVIRAJ': OUR TRIBUTE TO HIS HEROISM AND HIS LIFE

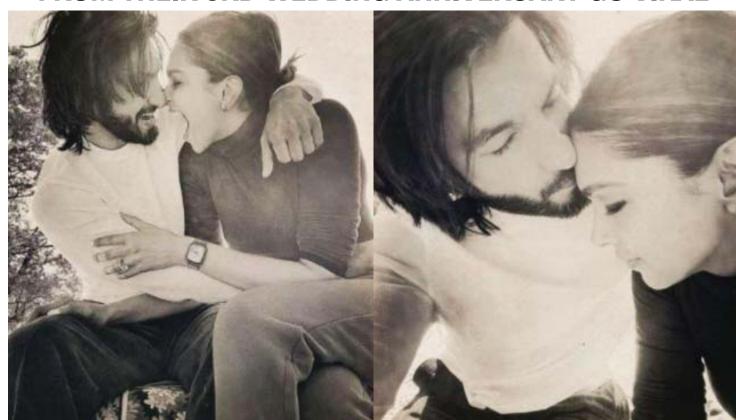


MUMBAI, (IANS) Actor Akshay Kumar on Monday unveiled the teaser of his upcoming historical 'Prithviraj' and said that the film is a homage to Prithviraj Chauhan's unmatched bravery and courage. 'Prithviraj' is based on the life and valour of the Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan. Akshay is essaying the role of the warrior who fought valiantly against the merciless invader Muhammad of Ghor. Akshay said: "The teaser of Prithviraj captures the soul of the film, the essence of the life of the legendary warrior Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan who knew no fear. This is our tribute to his heroism and his life.

### RANI MUKERJI CONS DESIGNER-FRIEND SABYASACHI IN 'BUNTY AUR BABLI 2', HE REACTS

Bollywood star Rani Mukerji is known for her stellar performances that have been etched into the hearts of audiences. This time, for YRF's Bunty Aur Babli 2, the acclaimed actor has turned into the 'Fashion Queen of Fursatgunj' Vimmy aka the OG Babli in the completely rebooted franchise. Rani is a fashionista in this idyllic small town and chooses to design her own clothes under her fashion label 'V' - the starting initial for her character's name in this laugh-out-loud comedy. In the film, Rani is a huge fan of the top Indian fashion designer Sabyasachi and is happy making blatant copies of his creations to pass them off as her own! These clothes have her logo which is a V with a cat on it. Incidentally, Sabyasachi's logo has a tiger - the big cat! Looks like Rani has conned her close friend Sabyasachi in the film! However, not many know that the ace designer is in charge of Rani's costume design in the film which coincidentally means that he has conned himself in the film! We spoke to Sabyasachi on this hilarious plagiarism play in the movie and he says, "It's impossible not to appreciate the humour behind this! I personally think it's very flattering to be written in as Vimmy's con job.

### RANVEER SINGH-DEEPIKA PADUKONE'S MUSHY PHOTOS FROM THEIR 3RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GO VIRAL

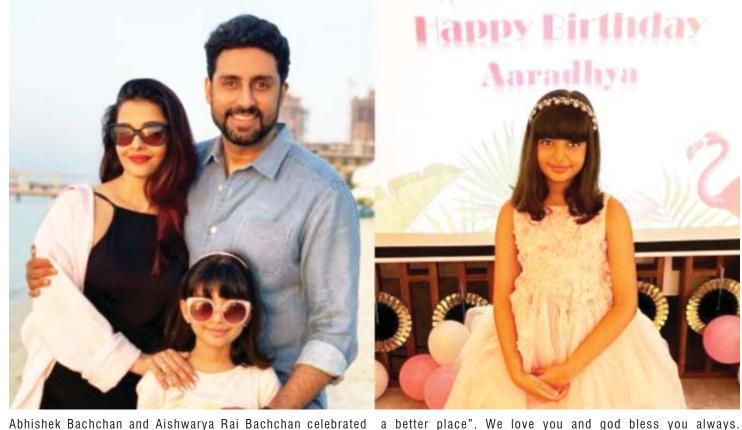


The power couple of Bollywood -- Ranveer Singh and Deepika affair as they flew to an undisclosed location in the hills. Padukone, on Wednesday shared some loving photos from their third wedding anniversary celebrations in Uttarakhand.

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone - the most talked-about couple from the Hindi film industry - celebrated their third anniversary in an undisclosed location in Uttarakhand recently. The actors' marriage ceremony had taken place at the picturesque Lake Como in Italy as per the Konkani and the Sindhi Anand Kaaraj rituals on 14th and 15th November 2018. The stars kept their third anniversary a low-key spending a relaxing staycation in the lap of the Himalayas.

However, after their return to Mumbai on Tuesday, Ranveer and Deepika took their Instagram handles Wednesday morning to give fans a glimpse of their private celebrations. Deepika captioned the first set of pictures as "All of my heart...." and the second set as "...And then some...(heart emoji)." Ranveer shared the same set of pictures with no caption. He instead used red heart, infinity and evil-eye emojis to do the talking. The adorable monochrome pictures show the couple

### **Abhishek Bachchan writes heartwarming birthday note for** 'princess' Aaradhya, drops photo from celebration in Maldives



Aaradhya's birthday in the Maldives. The couple were blessed with a baby girl, Aaradhya on November 16, 2011, after their marriage in 2007. Recently, the Bachchan family including Abhishek, Aishwarya birthday. As Aaradhya turned 10 on November 16, her actor-dad Abhishek Bachchan shared her cute picture on his Instagram account. Junior Bachchan also wrote a loving note for his daughter:

#aboutlastnight." Aaradhya's sweet smile makes the picture even more adorable. In the meantime, Sikander Kher, Anupam Kher-Kirron Kher's son and Abhishek's close friend, also wished Aaradhya for her and their daughter Aaradhya went to the Maldives to ring in the latter's birthday sharing a throwback picture from her childhood. The Aarya actor wrote a note for her that read: "To my darling lady princess bestest... I love you very much ... health shall always be with you and joy shall always be with the people you are around ... god bless "Happy birthday princess! Like your mother says "you make the world 🔝 you ... siku chachu #Aaradhya #GettingTallerThanPapaSoonest."

### After Dostana 2, Kartik Aaryan says he isn't affected by negative stories, but asks himself 'Why is this happening?'



Actor Kartik Aaryan in a new interview addressed the negative press that sometimes hounds him, and said that more than himself, it bothers his family. He admitted that this has forced him to have conversations with his mother, and that he has had to explain things to her. Possibly the most unfavourable report that did the rounds about Kartik Aaryan was that he was let go from Dostana 2 because he was unaccommodating. Producer Karan Johar announced that the film, costarring Janhvi Kapoor, would be recast after Kartik had already filmed some scenes. 'Creative differences' was cited as the official reason behind the recasting. In an interview with RJ Siddharth Kannan, Kartik was asked if he's bothered by the negative stories about himself, and he said in Hindi, "A lot of times you ask yourself, 'Why is this happening?' But more than myself, I feel for my family, because they don't

belong to this world. I belong to this industry, so I know that as long as

you concentrate on your work, nothing else matters. But my family

that, it doesn't matter. I know that my work will always speak volumes. If I fall short on that front, I want to improve myself." He also admitted that he has taken jobs just for the money, but stressed that he has never compromised on his work ethic. He added, "I've

gets affected, and that's the only thing I get worried about. Other than

gone for money at times when I didn't have it, for work also. But I've never not given it my 200%. I did my job to the best of my ability. But there were times when I felt that I would've made different choices if I'd had options. It's not about integrity, it's about one's condition; it's the need of the hour. You have to make decisions keeping the future in mind. Now, fortunately, I am in a position where I can choose, and I am very particular about the choices I make." Kartik will next be seen in director Ram Madhvani's dramatic thriller Dhamaka, out on Netflix on November 18. In the film, which was shot during the pandemic, Kartik plays a news anchor caught in a moral dilemma.

#### **NETFLIX'S SQUID GAME HAS BEEN** WATCHED FOR 1.6 BN HOURS, RED **NOTICE CLOCKS 148.7 MN HOURS**



Netflix on Tuesday rolled out a new website that measures its most-viewed films and series by the amount of hours users spend watching them. The results? People are watching Squid Game and the new action-adventure film Red Notice maybe even more than you would have guessed.

According to the streaming service's new metric, Rawson Marshall Thurber's Red Notice, starring Dwayne Johnson, Gal Gadot and Ryan Reynolds, has been watched for 148.7 million hours globally since it debuted Nov. 12 on Netflix. In the past week, the most popular series was season three of Narcos: Mexico, with 50.3 million hours viewed.

The first season of Squid Game ranks as Netflix's mostwatched show or film ever, with 1.6 billion hours viewed. Every Tuesday, Netflix will update the site Top10 on Netflix with the top 10 series and films on the streaming service. Until now, Netflix has been selective in sharing viewership data. It has occasionally shared views for hits, and it logs a top 10 list, without data, on the service, itself,

### KANGANA RANAUT CALLS VIR DAS A 'CRIMINAL', SAYS CONTROVERSIAL I **COME FROM TWO INDIAS VIDEO** AMOUNTS TO 'SOFT TERRORISM'



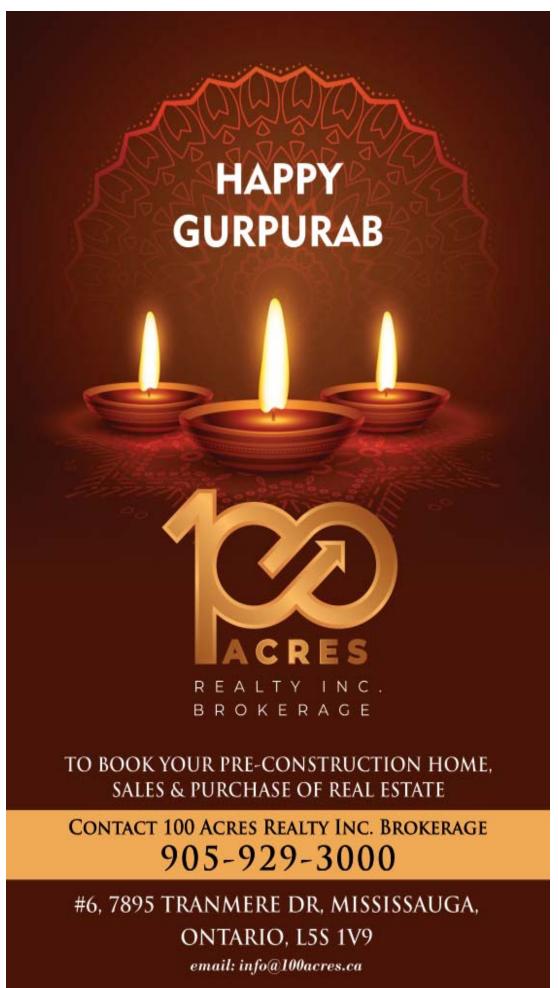
Even as comedian Vir Das drew support from Congress leaders Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor after attracting controversy for his video, I Come From Two Indias, actor Kangana Ranaut called him a 'criminal' for his comments. Vir Das' video was shared on his YouTube channel earlier this week, and was filmed during his performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Kangana in an Instagram Story on Wednesday said that certain statements made by Das in the video were 'generalisations' and compared them to controversial comments made by Winston Churchill about the Bengal famine of 1943. A Delhi BJP member filed a complaint against Das for the comment "In India, we worship women in the day and rape them at night" in the video. Das in a social media statement defended the video, and urged viewers to not fall prey to edited clips. "Please do not be fooled by edited snippets." he said, while further explaining the intent behind making the video as part of his recent tour to America.

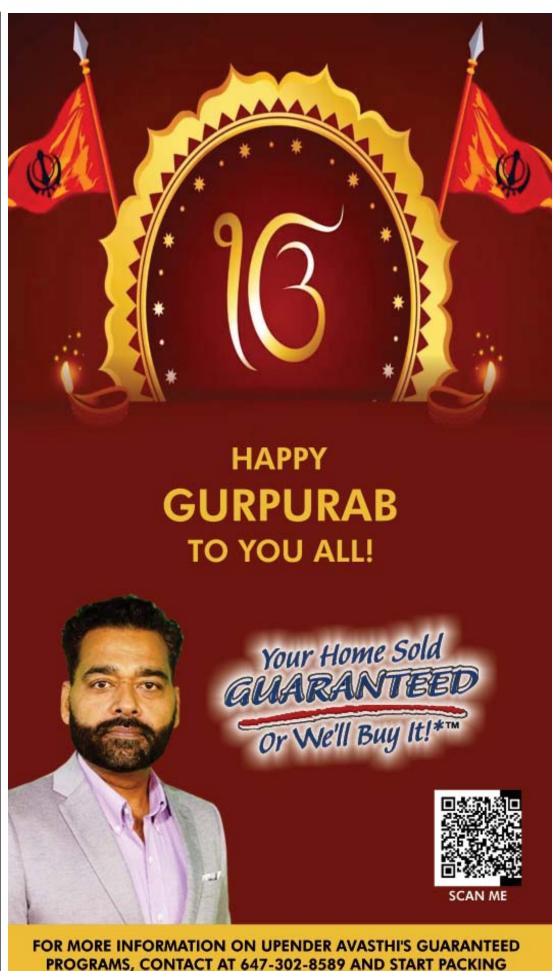
### KARAN JOHAR, MITHUN CHAKRABORTY TO JUDGE REALITY SHOW HUNARBAAZ – DESH KI SHAAN





Filmmaker Karan Johar and veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty have come on board as judges for the first season of Colors talent reality show Hunarbaaz - Desh Ki Shaan. According to the makers, the show will bring "unexplored talent of the country to the forefront." "Singers, musicians, dancers, magicians, stuntmen, comedians and more, all are welcome to dazzle everyone with their talent. To add to this excitement, the industry's biggest entertainment experts will come together to help India select its ultimate 'Hunarbaaz'" a note from makers read. Karan Johar said the Frames Productions-backed show will be a great opportunity for people to showcase their talent. "There is no moment as divine as the one where you rock the stage with your talent! Hunarbaaz- Desh Ki Shaan has brought a massive opportunity for all the talented people out there to live this moment in front of millions of people. It will be an absolute honour to judge the amazing talent that is about to make its way to the grand stage," the filmmaker said in a statement. Mithun Chakraborty said the country is blessed with "incredibly talented" people and the show aims to give a platform to those people. "Hunarbaaz - Desh Ki Shaan has arrived as the most perfect platform for such talents to step up and set the stage on fire like never before," the 71-year-old actor said. "More power to Colors for creating this splendid venture for the lovely TV audience of this country," he added. Auditions for the show are currently open. Hunarbaaz - Desh Ki Shaan will soon air on Colors.









**ROGERS** 











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**ROHIT, PANT, BUMRAH** & SHAMI RESTED FOR **NZ TESTS; RAHANE TO** LEAD INDIA IN 1ST TEST |P26

**NEERAJ CHOPRA, SUMITANTIL AMONG 12 CONFERRED KHEL** RATNA; 35 GET ARJUNA AWARDS | P26







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### **SO PROUD TO BE FIRST AUSTRALIA TEAM TO WIN IT:** FINCH ON MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP TRIUMPH

**DUBAI**, (IANS) After winning the maiden ICC Men's T20 World Cup trophy, Aaron Finch on Sunday said that his team is so proud of becoming the first Australian team to achieve the silverware in the shortest format of the game.

A clinical unbeaten knock from Mitchell Marsh (77 not out off 50 balls) along with a crucial half-century by David Warner (53 off 38 balls) and a superlative spell by Josh Hazlewood (3/16) ended their 14-year-long wait for a maiden Men's T20 World Cup trophy, defeating New Zealand by eight wickets in the final at the Dubai International Stadium here on Sunday. "This is huge. To be the first Australian team to be able to do it. So proud. We knew our backs were against the wall. We had some great individual performances, some great team performances," said Australia skipper Finch at the post-match presentation ceremony.

The skipper also praised his opening partner Warner for a fantastic performance with the bat.

"Can't believe people wrote him off saying he was done (Warner). That's chased superbly by Australia."

when he plays his best cricket. Was almost like poking the bear," he said. Applauding other performers for their watch-winning contributions, the Aussie skipper said, "The player of the tournament for me (Zampa). Mitch Marsh -- what a way to start his innings today. Wade came into this game with an injury cloud but got a job done. Stoinis did the business."

Meanwhile, losing captain Kane Williamson said that Australia are a fantastic side and they didn't give an inch.

"They (Australia) are a fantastic side. We certainly made every effort but they didn't give an inch really. Really proud of our team's efforts throughout. Came here in the final and gave it our best shot but it wasn't enough," said a disappointed Australia. "Credit to Australia. Today they really turned it on," he added. Talking about his team's batting performance, the Kiwi skipper said, "We were trying to get a platform and the surface was holding a fraction. But typical here in Dubai. It was nice to build some partnerships and get what we thought was a competitive total. Only to be

#### WE WEREN'T ABLE TO CREATE MANY **OPPORTUNITIES, SAYS WILLIAMSON**



DUBAL (IANS) New Zealand captain Kane Williamson felt that his team wasn't able to create many opportunities while defending 173 against Australia in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final. He was gracious in defeat, saying that Australia were clinical with their chase and thoroughly deserved to be the champions. In their first Men's T20 World Cup final, New Zealand lost to Australia by eight wickets at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

"I thought the efforts that went in were outstanding. The guys worked hard towards what was a competitive total. Unfortunately, we weren't able to create many opportunities and get those breakthroughs. It was a little bit frustrating. I think we have seen the conditions throughout. They have been fairly consistent and the ball did skid on a little bit. But Aussies were outstanding in their chase and very clinical. They have had a fantastic campaign and thoroughly deserved that (title)," said Williamson in the post-final press conference.

Williamson believed that the pitch early on was tough to score runs upon as they were at 57/1 in the first ten overs. "It did feel tough. It was just holding in the wicket a little bit. Sort of normal characteristics I think of the Dubai surfaces. It was nice to sort of build a platform and accelerate from there which we were able to do. I suppose when you lose, you look at a number of different areas and you want more of everything. But I think if we look at a whole, the campaign and the effort that went in and the performances that went into getting us here, and even tonight, it's always a fine line with winning and losing, especially in this format. But you come up against a very strong side in Australia and they are playing very, very well, and they did that again tonight." Talking about his whirlwind knock of 85 off 48 balls, laced with ten fours and three sixes, Williamson remarked, "It was nice to make a contribution. I suppose when you finish with the end result, always want a little bit more. You want to make sure that as a batsman or being a part of partnerships that have real value, and certainly that was the focus. But unfortunately, today it didn't get us far enough. But there are a number of good contributions. The team did their very best and it wasn't quite enough tonight."

### DARYL MITCHELL REPLACES INJURED CONWAY IN NEW **ZEALAND SQUAD FOR INDIA TEST SERIES**

AUCKLAND, (IANS) New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Sunday replaced injured Devon Conway with in-form batter Daryl Mitchell in the Black Caps' Test squad for the upcoming GJ Gardner home tour of India. Conway was earlier ruled out of the tour and the ICC T20 World Cup

final against Australia with a broken hand sustained in New Zealand's semifinal win over England on November 10. The wicketkeeper-batter was ruled out following a freak injury that he picked up by striking his bat in frustration when dismissed against England.

New Zealand coach Gary Stead said Conway would return home with the T20 squad after their three-game series in India next week, while Mitchell will stay on for the two-Test series starting later this month. "It's a shame for Devon to miss out on the first series of the new World Test Championship cycle, but it also offers up an opportunity for someone else," Stead said on Sunday.

"Daryl's versatility means he can cover a lot of batting positions and he's certainly got plenty of confidence at the moment. He's proven he can perform in Test cricket and I know he's excited to rejoin the Test with the second Test in Mumbai from December 3.



group," said Stead. New Zealand head to India on November 15 to begin the tour with three T20 Internationals, the first of which is on November 17 in Jaipur, followed by Ranchi on the Nov 19 and Kolkata on the Nov 21. The two-Test series starts in Kanpur on November 25

### ICC T20 WORLD CUP: HASAN ALI ISSUES PUBLIC APOLOGY FOR WADE'S DROPPED CATCH

DUBAI, (IANS) Pakistan pace bowler Hasan Ali issued a public apology late on Sunday night after he was subjected to vicious online abuse following a dropped catch of Matthew Wade during the ICC T20 World Cup semifinal against Australia on November 11.

Pakistan lost the match from a seemingly commanding position after Hasan Ali dropped Wade, who then smashed three sixes off three balls to earn Australia a berth in the T20 World Cup final.

With 20 required off 10 balls, Wade and Marcus Stoinis' unbeaten stand had kept Aaron Finch's side alive in their 177-run chase against the 2009 T20 World champions. Wade tried to smash pace bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi for a six, but ended up mistiming the shot. However, Hasan failed to take a relatively easy catch before the Australian pair took their side home with an over to spare.

Following the costly miss, Hasan Ali was trolled and abused on social media. The 27-year-old pace bowler posted an apology letter on social media, saying, "I know you all are upset because my performance didn't meet your expectations from me but not more disap-



pointed than me (sic). Don't change your expectations from me. I want to serve (flag of Pakistan) cricket at the highest level possible, so back to hard work. This patch will make me stronger. Thank you for all the messages, tweets, posts, calls, and Duas (prayers) -- needed them (red heart symbol)."

#### **GREAT HONOUR TO RECEIVE ARJUNA** AWARD. SAYS SHIKHAR DHAWAN



NEW DELHI, (IANS) After being presented the Arjuna Award, Indian batter Shikhar Dhawan took to social media to thank everyone who supported him in his journey, including his family, friends and the national cricket board (BCCI). The 35-year-old Dhawan was conferred with the Arjuna Award by President Ram Nath Kovind in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the sport, on Saturday. "Arjuna award receive karna mere liyebohotsammaan ki baathai. Mai unnsabhi logon ka dhanyawadkarnachahta hu jo isssafarmein mere saathkhaderahe mere coaches, doctors, support staff, BCCI, teammates, sabhi fans, mere doston aur meraparivar. (It is a great honour for me to receive the Arjuna Award. I would like to thank all the people who stood by me on this journey the coaches, doctors, support staff, BCCI, teammates, all the fans, my friends and my family)," Dhawan wrote on Twitter. "Aapsabhikepyaar aur saathkebina ye possible nahi ho pata. Ye ekbohot hi unbelievable feeling hotihai Jab aapka hard work acknowledge karajaatahai aur mai sab logo keliyeapnaBohotbohotabhaarvyaktkarnachahta hu. I will continue to work hard to make my country proud Congratulations to all the awardees." (This would not have been possible without your love and support. It is such an unbelievable feeling when your hard work gets acknowledged. I will continue to work hard to make my country proud. Congratulations to all the award winners)," Dhawan added.

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### **ROHIT, PANT, BUMRAH & SHAMI RESTED FOR NZ TESTS**; RAHANE TO LEAD INDIA IN 1ST TEST

MUMBAI, (IANS) The Indian cricket team will be without Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, JaspritBumrah, and Mohammed Shami in the upcoming two-match Test series against New Zealand, beginning November 25. Newly appointed T20 captain Sharma, wicketkeeper Pant and fast bowling duo Bumrah and Shami -- all regular members of the Indian Test side have been rested as a part of their workload management in addition to regular skipper Virat Kohli, who will return in time for the second Test in Mumbai, starting December 3.

"Virat Kohli will join the squad for the second Test and will lead the team," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

In Kohli's absence, Ajinkya Rahane will lead India in the first Test, set to be played from November 25-29 in Kanpur, with CheteshwarPujara being named his deputy.

Notably, Bumrah, Shami, and Kohli have already been rested for the three-match white-ball series which precedes the Tests.

Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer, who is uncapped in Tests, could make his red-ball debut after earning the call-up to the side. Andhra wicketkeeperbat Srikar Bharat, who was a standby for COVID-recovered WriddhimanSaha for the England tour earlier this year, has been added to the squad now and opener Shubhman Gill, who last played in the WTC finale also returns to the side.

T20IS AGAINST NZ

Meanwhile, Suryakumar Yadav, Prithvi Shaw, HanumaVihari, and Abhimanyu Easwaran, who were all part of the subsequent Test series, against England, have been left out from the 16-member list, along with Shardul Thakur, who will be out of action from the preceding T20Is as well. However, BCCI later added Vihari to the India 'A' squad for the South Africa tour. The batsman, who is currently playing the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20s for Hyderabad, last played a Test in Sydney in January. Uncapped Prasidh Krishna, who was promoted from the reserves on the England tour, has retained his place in the squad and Ishant Sharma,

The squad also sees the comeback of off-spinning allrounder Jayant Yadav, who last played for India in 2017. His inclusion comes on the back of a prolonged time off for Washington Sundar, who is yet to fully recover from a finger injury sustained in July, ahead of the England Tests. Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, and Axar Patel are the other spinning options in the team.

Umesh Yadav, and Mohammed Siraj are the other pacers.

India Test squad: Ajinkya Rahane (Captain first Test), Virat Kohli (Rested for first Test, Captain for second) KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, CheteshwarPujara, Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, WriddhimanSaha (wk), KS Bharat (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Jayant Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav, Md. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna

T20

1ST T20 MATCH Teams: IND vs NZ Date: Nov 17,2021 Venue: Sawai Mansingh

Stadium, Jaipur

2ND T20 MATCH

Teams: IND vs NZ

Date: Nov 19,2021

Venue: JSCA International

Stadium Complex, Ranchi

3RD T20 MATCH

Teams: IND vs NZ

Date: Nov 21,2021

Venue: Eden Gardens, Kolkata

**TEST** 

**1ST TEST MATCH** 

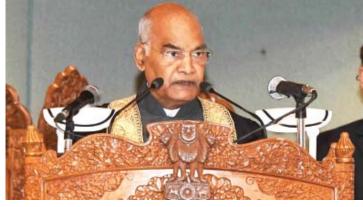
Teams: IND vs NZ

Date: Nov 25-29,2021

Venue: Green Park, Kanpur

**2ND TEST MATCH** 





NEW DELHI, (IANS) President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday honoured twelve sportspersons with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, while 35 athletes were conferred Arjuna Award at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Below are the details of the National Sports Awards and what the awardees got:

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award: It is India's highest sporting honour and is awarded for outstanding performance over a period of four years. The award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.

Arjuna Award: It is awarded for consistently good performance over a period of four years. The award comprises of a bronze statuette of Arjuna, certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh. Dronacharya Award: It is given for producing medal winners at major international events. The award comprises of a bronze statuette of Dronacharya, a certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh. Dhyan Chand Award: It is the highest award for lifetime achievement in sports and is awarded for performance and contribution to the promotion of sports in an individual capacity. The award comprises of a Dhyan Chand statuette, a certificate, ceremonial dress and, a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh. Rashtriya Khel ProtsahanPuruskar: It is awarded to organisations (both private and public) and individuals for playing a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development over the period of the last three years. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy: It is awarded to the university for top performance in the inter-university tournaments over a period of a year.

#### INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM TO TOUR NEW ZEALAND AHEAD OF 2022 ODI WORLD CUP



WELLINGTON, (IANS) The Indian women's cricket team will play five ODIs and one T20I in New Zealand next year as part of their preparations for the 50-over World Cup scheduled for March-April.

The six-match series will get underway with a one-off T20I on February 9 and end on February 24.

"The White Ferns will put the finishing touches on their preparations for the upcoming World Cup, to be hosted in New Zealand for the first time in 22 years, when they play India in a six-match series comprising a T20, and five ODIs," New Zealand Cricket announced on Friday. The two teams last faced each other in a bilateral series in January-February 2019, when New Zealand hosted India for six limited-overs games. India clinched the ODI series 2-1 while New Zealand handed them a 3-0 sweep in the T20I leg of the tour.

India's last international outing was a seven-match tour of Australia in September-October this year, which featured three ODIs and T20Is apiece and a pink-ball Test.

"The India series is a crucial part of the White Ferns' World Cup preparations," NZC chief executive David White said in a statement. Schedule:

Feb 9: 1st T20I, Napier

Feb 11: 1st ODI, Napier

Feb 14: 2nd ODI, Nelson Feb 16: 3rd ODI, Nelson

Feb 22: 4th ODI, Queenstown

Feb 24: 5th ODI, Queenstown

#### Teams: IND vs NZ Date: Dec 03-07,2021 BHUVNESHWAR Venue: Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

RAVICHANDRAN



### PAKISTAN TEAM ARRIVES IN DHAKA FOR T20. TEST SERIES

DHAKA, (IANS) Following a stellar performance in the ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE, where they lost to Australia in the semifinals, the Pakistan cricket team arrived in Dhaka on Saturday for a T20 and Test series beginning November 19.

The Babar Azam-led side will play three T20Is followed by two Tests. While the first Test will be played in Chattogram from November 26, the second Test will commence in Dhaka on December 4. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement that Babar Azam and veteran all-rounder Shoaib Malik will join the team in Dhaka on November 16. The national squad, however, will start practice after spending one day in quarantine, a report in thenews.com.pk said. The PCB had announced this week that it would retain the squad that played the ICC T20 World Cup, except Mohammad Hafeez who had requested the team management to be left out to allow opportunities for young players.

#### NEERAJ CHOPRA, SUMITANTIL AMONG 12 CONFERRED KHEL RATNA; 35 GET ARJUNA AWARDS

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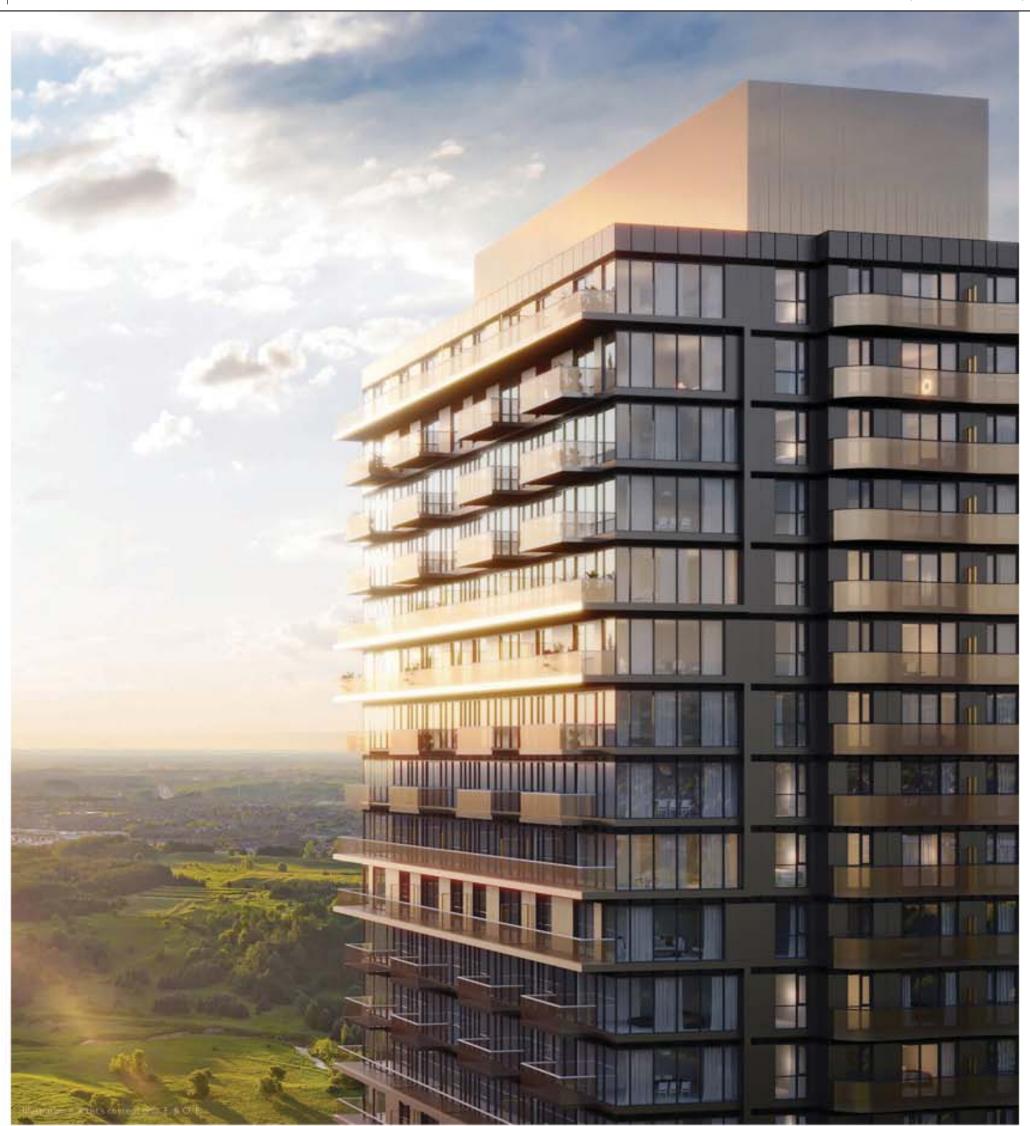












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